

Grade 5 – Curriculum Corner - January 2020

Language Arts - Reading:

What We're Learning Now and Where We are Going:

We are in the middle of a biography unit. Fifth graders are researching inspirational people. The major theme of the unit is "How we can take inspiration from others to better ourselves. The culminating project is a biography poster activity.

How to Help:

Parents can help by asking fifth graders about their research or helping find sources.

Language Arts - Writing:

What We're Learning Now and Where We are Going:

Fifth grade authors have just finished a personal narrative piece. I was impressed on how well they were written and the students' editing skills. We are continuing to study the mechanics of writing, such as grammar and writing dialogue. These mechanics will greatly enhance your child's editing and revising skills.

How to Help:

If you are able to access Google Doc, check out your child's story. If you would like a hard copy, please email me and I will send it home with your child.

Math:

What We're Learning Now and Where We're Going Next:

We are continuing to work through the second unit which is all about Decimals and Fractions. So far we have been working on place value to include tenths, hundredths and thousandths; exponents, comparing and rounding decimals - up to the thousandths place, and addition/ subtraction with decimals to the hundredths place using various strategies.

We are starting to work with fractions. We are reviewing how to find common denominators and learning how to add and subtract fractions.

How to Help:

The Ready Family Letters will be sent home at the beginning of each new lesson - a hard copy is sent home in your students yellow home-to-school folder, it is also sent electronically as an attachment on the Bloomz App. Each Ready Lesson lasts about 3

to 5 days. Students will receive math homework to reinforce skills learned in the classroom.

On nights that homework is not specifically assigned, students may access their iReady account for math fact fluency and individualized adaptive math games. They can access their account at [clever.com](https://www.clever.com) and sign in using their school google account.

Social Studies:

What We're Learning Now and Where We're Going Next:

Fifth graders have read and analyzed ancient world explorers on Freckle. We will be doing a project focused on reasons for exploration.

How to Help:

You can ask students why explorers explored.

Science:

What We're Learning Now and Where We're Going Next:

Fifth grade scientists have started a new unit where they will understand how energy moves through ecosystems. Next, they will create their own food webs and chains.

How to Help:

Choose an ecosystem and ask your child to draw a web or chain explaining the movement of energy.

Music:

What We're Learning Now and Where We're Going Next:

In their General Music classes, fifth graders have just begun their Guitar Unit. In this unit, they will learn to play and create one, two, and three chord accompaniments for a given melody, as well as perform a melody using tablature. Our Chorus students are beginning to explore various vocal articulations and our Band students are continuing their unit on key signatures and accidentals.

How to Help:

Establishing a practicing routine at home and a dedicated practice time each day will help your child tremendously with their musical growth. Listening to and interacting with

music at home and at performance venues will continue to build the musical skills we work on at school, as well as increase your child's engagement in the performing arts!

Physical Education:

What We're Learning Now and Where We're Going Next:

At the moment in Physical Education classes we are finishing up our volleyball unit, in this unit we focused on three basic skills; bump, set and serve of the ball. As always we strive to be a ready and willing team player. In the weeks to follow we are moving onto a floorball unit (Hockey). We will be focusing on the proper way to hold the stick and move the ball around the floor with confidence. This is also a team sport which requires one to focus and be ready.

At the end of the month, keep an eye out for information on our annual HOOPS FOR HEART FUNDRAISER! I look forward to another successful campaign.

How to Help:

I encourage you and your child to stay as active as possible during these cold winter months. Have them get out and play in the snow or get involved with some sort of after school activity. During WIN I give them all different and creative ways to work out.

Art:

What We're Learning Now and Where We're Going Next:

Students are working on a Dragon's Eye project. This is an up close drawing of an eye of a fantastical animal. Students have to use color theory, line quality, value changes, and blending as well as try their best to be original and creative. This project is fun and produces artwork that students will be proud of. Attention to detail is important in this lesson as well as good craftsmanship.

How to Help:

We had a good time looking at close up pictures of animals at the beginning of this lesson. Eyes are beautiful! It was challenging to guess correctly which animal might belong to which close up. Some of our guesses were right on the money and others were way out in left field. Students used some creative thinking to come up with their answers. Look at some photos of eyes for yourself and try guessing who/what they belong to. Look at surrounding texture, shape, color. Who is better at this? You or your student artist?